



# Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
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## Orange Sallow Moth (*Rhodoecia aurantiago*)

State Status: **Threatened**

### Species Description

The Orange Sallow is a noctuid moth, forewings orange with black spotting, margins pink in male, hind wings tan, margins shaded with pink in both sexes. Wingspan 24-28 mm.

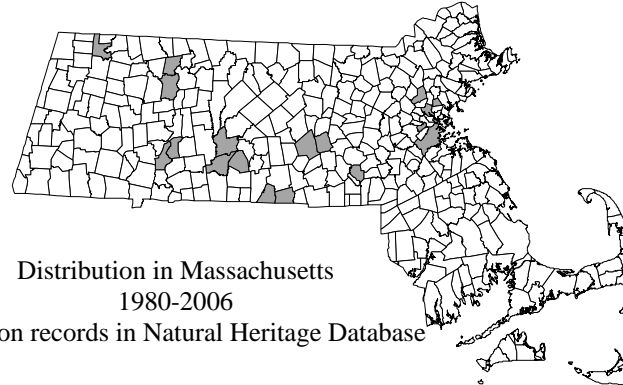
Global Rarity Ranking	State Rarity Ranking	MESA Status
G4	S2S3	Special concern



Photo by: Mike Nelson

### Distribution and Abundance

There are 27 current occurrences of the Orange Sallow Moth in Massachusetts (NHESP database, accessed June 2006).



Distribution in Massachusetts  
1980-2006

Based on records in Natural Heritage Database

### Habitat Description

Xeric and open oak woodland on rocky uplands (ridges, hilltops, and steep slopes), and nearby edges of old fields, powerline cuts, and other openings. Larvae feed on flowers, seed pods, and foliage of false foxgloves (*Aureolaria* spp.).

### Threats

- Loss and degradation of habitat (xeric and open oak woodland on rocky uplands). This habitat is fire-dependent, so fire suppression contributes to habitat loss.
- Introduced generalist parasitoids (e.g., *Compsilura concinnata*).
- Insecticide spraying.
- Clearcut timber harvest
- Excessive deer browsing.
- Off-road vehicles.

Originated: 2006